of the mid or central portion, one of said end portions being smaller in area than the other of said end portions with the smaller end portion being closest to the channel.

4. (Amended) The bushing of claim 2 wherein said material is glass and said bushing, including the screen, is made from a precious metal or precious metal alloy with the major portion of said metal being platinum and wherein said screen has a thickness of between about 0.009 to about 0.015 inch.

8. (Amended) The bushing of claim 2 wherein the hole area per unit area of screen in said central portion is at least 10 percent less than the hole area per unit area of said ~~end~~ portions, which open area in said end portions ranges between about 10 to about 16 percent open area based on the total area of the end portions.

11. (Amended) A lay in screen of a precious metal or precious metal alloy for laying on top of another screen in a fiberizing bushing having a plurality of holes therethrough, said lay in screen comprised of a mid or central portion and two end portions, said mid or central portion having a hole area per unit area of the central portion that is significantly less than the hole area of the end portions per unit area of the end portions, one of the end portions being smaller than the other end portion, and the thickness of said screen being between about 0.009 and 0.011 inch.

~~16.~~ (Amended) A method of making fibers from a molten material wherein said molten material is heated in a bushing comprising at least one sidewall and a tip or orifice plate through which molten glass flows to form the fibers, [and] said bushing further comprising a first screen having holes therein with a generally uniform hole size and ~~density~~ spaced above said tip plate, said first screen being attached to said sidewall, the improvement comprising using a second screen lying on top of said first screen, said second screen having holes therein, at least some holes having a diameter smaller than that of the holes in said first screen, and

having a significantly lower percentage of hole area per unit of screen area than the percentage hole area per unit of screen area of said first screen such that resistance to flow of molten glass through the second screen is greater than the resistance to flow through the first screen.

17. (Amended) The method of claim ~~16~~ 6 wherein said material is glass and said bushing is made from precious metal or alloys of precious metal containing a majority of platinum, wherein the thickness of said second screen is between about 0.009 and 0.015 inch and wherein said significantly lower is at least about 10 percent lower.

20. (Amended) The method of claim ~~16~~ 6 wherein said bushing is used to make direct chopped fibers at maximum productivity having a diameter that is at least three microns smaller [fiber diameter] than the fiber that a bushing containing only said first screen [was designed to] can make at maximum productivity.

21. (Amended) A method for forming fibers from a molten material in a channel position of a multi-bushing fiberizing operation comprising at least one sidewall and a tip plate or orifice plate through which the molten material flows to form the fibers, and a screen spaced above said tip plate having a plurality of holes therein, said screen being attached to said sidewall, the improvement comprising a bushing screen in said bushing having a hole area per unit of screen area in a center portion of the screen that is significantly less than the hole area per unit of screen area in [at least one] two end portions of the screen, an end portion of the screen closest to said channel being smaller in area than the other end portion.

23. (Amended) In a method for forming fibers from a molten material in a channel position of a multi-bushing fiberizing operation comprising at least one sidewall and a tip plate or orifice plate through which the molten material flows to form the

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